

# OVIS CANADENSIS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Cornua* concava, retrorsum versa, intorta, rugosa.

*Dentes* primores inferiores octo.

*Laniarii* nulli.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

OVIS pilosa fusco-ferruginea, fronte uropygioque albis, cauda brevissima, cornibus compressis lunatis.

Belier de Montagne.

*Geoffr. Ann. Mus. Nat.* No. 11. p. 360.

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Physicis Europæis non nisi imperrimè innotuisse videtur Ovis quam describere pergitur, in Canada interiori generata, nec lana vestita, sed pilo denso, valido, et quasi cervino. Crura, si cum corpore comparentur, longa et gracilia. Cornua iis simillima quæ gerit aries nostras vulgaris: at fœminæ minoræ longe quam mari. Color generalis fusco-ferrugineo-pallet, idem fere ac cernere est in multis cervini generis. Genæ obscuriores. Rostrum et uropygium alba. Cauda brevissima. Idem fere dicitur esse huic vivendi modus qui Ibici; scandenti nempe montium cacumina, et mirâ celeritate de rupe

rupe in rupem salienti. Ovium hujusmodi congregantur, ut plurimum, viginti seu triginta ; vocantque eas Canadenses *oves rupestres*. Juniorum caro in cibis lautissimis habetur. Ovi Canadensi eadem fere est magnitudo atque Ibici. Perpulchrum rari hujus quadrupedis specimen in Museo Britannico conspicitur.





THE  
CANADIAN SHEEP.



*GENERIC CHARACTER.*

*Horns* hollow, wrinkled, turning backwards,  
and spirally intorted.

*Front-Teeth* eight in the lower jaw.

*Canine-Teeth* none.

*SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.*

Ferruginous-brown hairy SHEEP, with white  
front and rump, very short tail, and com-  
pressed lunated horns.

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The species of sheep here represented, and which appears to have been, till very lately, unknown to the naturalists of Europe, is a native of the interior parts of Canada. It is remarkable for being covered, instead of wool, with very thick and strong hair, greatly resembling that of a Deer. The legs are long in proportion to the body. The horns very much resemble

semble those of the common ram, and those of the female are said to be much smaller than those of the male. The general colour is a pale ferruginous brown, similar to that of many of the Deer tribe: the cheeks are of a darker cast than the other parts, and the muzzle and rump are white: the tail is very short. The general habits of the animal are said to resemble those of the Ibex, frequenting chiefly the highest and most inaccessible parts of the mountainous regions, occasionally skipping from rock to rock with incredible swiftness. It is generally observed in small flocks of twenty or thirty together, and is known to the Canadians by the name of *Mountain Sheep*. The young are considered as the most delicate meat which that extensive country can afford. A very fine specimen of this rare quadruped may be seen in the British Museum.